

Dear Teachers and Parents:

To protect distinctive water related natural features for the enjoyment of future generations, the Florida Legislature created aquatic preserves. Aquatic Preserves are exceptional areas of submerged lands and associated waters which are to be maintained in their natural or existing condition. Management objectives for the preserves are to maintain and improve existing resources such as seagrasses, mangroves, aquatic plants, birds and fish.

Unfortunately, these features that have drawn people to Florida are endangered by increasing population pressures. Only through careful preservation of these essential resources can the public be assured continued enjoyment of activities such as fishing, boating and swimming.

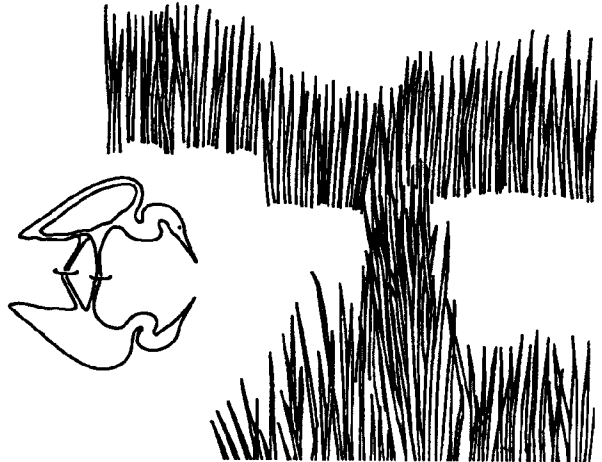
The Aquatic Preserves are Exceptional, student activity booklet is designed to introduce children to some native plants and animals living in Florida's various ecosystems. We encourage you to explore this booklet with your child and enhance your awareness of Florida's natural resources. Present generations must help preserve and protect these fragile resources to insure their continued existence in Florida's future.

"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder...he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in. " -Rachel Carson

Environmentally yours,

Darla Fousek

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